

success. However, not every veteran has had the same experience. Some have been subject to school closures, which risk robbing them of this one-time benefit. For example, in Illinois, more than 300 veterans were scammed by a for-profit school that took their money and abruptly closed its doors.

This legislation restores these education benefits to veterans defrauded by schools and gives these veterans a second chance to gain new skills in a booming labor market.

I thank the Senate for getting this bill to us so quickly and Senator DURBIN and Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4089, the Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration and Recovery Act.

One of the few positive provisions that was enacted as part of the American Rescue Plan was the creation of the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program, or VRRAP. This program authorizes 1 year of GI Bill-style education benefits for training for an in-demand occupation for unemployed veterans.

VRRAP was originally authored during the peak of COVID veteran unemployment by our former colleague Dr. Phil Roe and Congressman LEVIN. I was pleased to introduce the bill this year and was glad that it was made part of the American Rescue Plan.

Under this program, eligible veterans only have one chance to participate in VRRAP. This became a problem for hundreds of students at Future Tech Career Institute in Chicago when the training provider lost their ability to administer GI Bill benefits earlier this year.

If those students had been using a traditional GI Bill program, they would be eligible to have their benefits restored to continue their studies at another school. However, with VRRAP, that was not possible.

This bill will fix that issue, authorizing VRRAP users to have another chance to use the program if their school closes or loses GI Bill approval in the middle of the semester.

While I am very supportive of the policy in this bill, I do have concerns about the cost. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the cost of this bill to be at \$6 million in mandatory costs over 10 years.

For whatever reason, the Senate chose not to offset these costs before passing this bill. This decision is, unfortunately, not surprising, as we have seen repeatedly that the Democrat majority in both the House and the Senate loves to ignore costs and increase spending.

Their overstimulation of the economy has led to soaring inflation and staggering price increases that Ameri-

cans see every day. We must stop mortgaging our children's and grandchildren's futures. Our current level of spending is simply not sustainable.

That being said, I am not going to stand in the way of providing restored benefits to unemployed veterans who need our help in this struggling economy. That is why I am going to reluctantly support the passage of this bill today. However, I caution my friends that this practice of un-offset spending must end.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), my good friend who serves as a subcommittee chair on the Ways and Means Committee and is a member of the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration and Recovery Act. I introduced this bill with Senator DURBIN and Representative UNDERWOOD to ensure veterans receive the rapid retraining benefits they earned.

I thank Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman TAKANO and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity Chairman LEVIN for their leadership in advancing this bill quickly to meet the urgent need of affected veterans.

I also thank the multiple veterans' advocates for their support for swift passage to assist affected students.

Veterans serving our country with honor have earned their rapid retraining assistance education benefits. The American Rescue Plan established these benefits, known as VRRAP, to help veterans gain new skills to meet the changing workforce demands during the pandemic.

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Unfortunately, the Veterans Administration lacks the authority to restore benefits to veterans who attended institutions that closed or experienced a disapproval of educational programming.

This legislation emerged from casework in Illinois, where more than 300 Illinois veterans were scammed out of their benefits by an unaccredited for-profit institute.

I am indeed proud to work with Senator DURBIN and Representative UNDERWOOD to restore these benefits to these Illinois veterans and protect any other veteran in similar circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I thank the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for bringing it to us so quickly.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in passing this important

legislation. I remind my colleagues that it was sent to us by the Senate by unanimous consent, and we can express that same sense of unanimity by allowing this bill to pass on suspension by voice vote. The Senate has indicated unanimity. As my colleagues well know, to even get to the floor requires a 60-vote super majority.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend from Montana, the Big Sky State, have a big heart as well as be from the Big Sky State. To my colleague, the ranking member, I take to heart your consternation over a \$6 million non-offsetted cost, but I will remind you of a \$2 trillion tax cut which was not offset.

So we will wring our hands over \$6 million for our veterans but yet, look the other way when \$2.9 trillion is blithely moved through this Chamber with nary a hearing. I plead to a big heart in this institution that we may get through these votes quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 4089, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4089.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL TRAINING ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6052) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6052

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of 2021".

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE TRAINING REGARDING OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require each employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training that the Inspector General of the Department shall develop on the reporting of

wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General.

(b) **EMPLOYEES.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall require—

(1) each employee of the Department who was employed by the Department on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act undergo the training required by subsection (a) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) each employee of the Department who begins employment with the Department on or after the date of the enactment of this Act undergo the training required by subsection (a) not later than one year after the date on which the employment begins.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—Training developed and required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Definition of the role, responsibilities, and legal authority of the Inspector General of the Department and the duties of employees of the Department for engaging with the Office of the Inspector General.

(2) Identification of the circumstances and mechanisms for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and other wrongdoing to the Inspector General, including making confidential complaints to the Inspector General.

(3) Identification of the prohibitions and remedies that help to protect Department employees from retaliation when reporting wrongdoing to the Inspector General.

(4) Recognition of opportunities to engage with staff of the Office of the Inspector General to improve Department programs, operations, and services.

(d) **DESIGN AND UPDATE.**—The Inspector General of the Department shall design, and update as the Inspector General considers appropriate, the training developed and required by subsection (a).

(e) **SYSTEM.**—The Secretary shall provide, via the talent management system of the Department, or successor system, the training developed and required under subsection (a).

(f) **RELATION TO CERTAIN TRAINING.**—The Secretary shall ensure that training developed and required under subsection (a) is separate and distinct from training provided under section 733 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) **NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the Inspector General is afforded the opportunity, not less frequently than twice each year and as frequently as the Inspector General considers appropriate under extraordinary circumstances, to use the electronic mail system of the Department to notify all authorized users of such system of the following:

(1) The roles and responsibilities of the employees of the Department when engaging with the Office of the Inspector General.

(2) The availability of training provided under subsection (a).

(3) How to access training provided under subsection (a).

(4) Information about how to contact the Office of the Inspector General, including a link to any website-based reporting form of the Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 6052.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6052, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of 2021.

The VA's Office of Inspector General performs important oversight and investigations into a broad range of programs and spending by the Department.

Its work informs our committee's own oversight and has often formed the basis of our legislation. However, the Office of Inspector General relies on VA employees as a key source of information.

The better employees are at communicating with the OIG, the more effective the OIG is in carrying out oversight. That is why this bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives UNDERWOOD and MCKINLEY is so important.

Their bill requires all VA employees to undergo training developed by the OIG relating to reporting wrongdoing, responding to OIG requests, and cooperating with OIG investigations.

This legislation is supported by The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6052, which requires VA employees to receive training on the work that the VA inspector general does. This training will help VA employees understand how to recognize and report instances of waste, fraud, and abuse, as well as their responsibility to comply with the investigations.

VA's budget request for fiscal year 2023 is over \$300 billion. Oversight of this Department's massive budget is a major priority of mine. This commonsense bill would lead to better oversight by informing all VA employees of their responsibility to identify and report fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), the brilliant gentlewoman, my good friend, and author of H.R. 6052. She serves on the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6052, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of 2021.

The bipartisan VA OIG training act, which I introduced with Congressman DAVID MCKINLEY of West Virginia last fall, is a critical step to promote ac-

countability at VA and ensure our veterans are receiving the world-class care and benefits that they have earned.

This bill requires every current and future VA employee to participate in the VA's OIG training, which will ensure that staff are prepared to report fraud, waste, and patient abuse, and are aware of protections for employees who report wrongdoings.

An assessment of initiatives carried out by VA's OIG found that every dollar spent on oversight yielded a \$21 return on investment. Ensuring the OIG can carry out its crucial oversight work will save taxpayer dollars, while also improving care and ensuring that veterans receive every dollar and benefit that they have earned.

My commonsense, bipartisan bill codifies OIG's training requirement, which strengthens the Department's Office of the Inspector General, protects VA employees who report wrongdoing, and most importantly, honors the service and sacrifices of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act today. I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for their support to advance this legislation.

I also thank Representative MCKINLEY for co-leading the bill with me in the House, and Senators HASSAN and BOOZMAN for leading this bipartisan bill in the Senate.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6052, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6052.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### MAKING ADVANCES IN MAMMOGRAPHY AND MEDICAL OPTIONS FOR VETERANS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2533) to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: